

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-14, 16-20, 22-29, and 31-34 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 2, 8, 15, 21, and 30 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,430,291 to Ogino *et al.* ("Ogino") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/008,6488 to Kori *et al.* ("Kori"). For *at least* the following reasons, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As an initial matter, Applicants thank the Examiner and his Supervisory Patent Examiner for the courtesies extended during the August 28, 2007 interview. In the interview, Applicants proposed an amendment to claim 1 and submitted that the proposed amendment overcomes the prior art rejection based on the combination of Ogino and Kori. After reviewing the proposed amendment, the Examiner and the SPE agreed that such an amendment would, in fact, overcome the prior art rejections if filed in a formal response. The interview summary dated August 29, 2007 indicates the same.

Accordingly, in this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c), Applicants amend the independent claims 1, 7, 14, 20, and 29 as discussed in the August 28th interview to place the application in immediate condition for allowance.

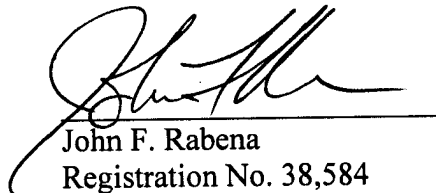
Claims 3-6, 9-13, 16-19, 22-28, and 31-34 are patentable *at least* by virtue of their dependency. Applicants further submit that since claims 2, 8, 15, 21, and 30 have been canceled, the rejections thereto are rendered moot.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


John F. Rabena
Registration No. 38,584

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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